



HEALTH ALERT (# 54)

Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae, West Virginia

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: October 21, 2011

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Centers for Disease Prevention and Control released information today regarding an outbreak of carbapenem resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) in association with a long term care facility in West Virginia (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>). A total of 6 outbreaks of CRE have been reported so far in West Virginia in 2011. *Enterobacteriaceae* (e.g., *E coli*, *K pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter* species) are common causes of urinary tract infections, blood stream infections, pneumonia and other healthcare associated infections. Carbapenem resistance confers broad resistance to multiple antimicrobial agents and may make these infections difficult or impossible to treat. Persons colonized with CRE in the stool may serve as a source of infection for other persons and may only be recognized by laboratory screening.

All healthcare facilities are advised to review and implement CDC recommendations for prevention and control of CRE (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5810a4.htm>). Outbreaks of CRE should be reported immediately to the local health department or to the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (800)-423-1271. One case of CRE is considered an outbreak in a facility that has previously not had a case of CRE.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to Local Health Departments and Infection Preventionists. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.